

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /054 W

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P R 181445Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 529

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

VOTE ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY

1. SURPRISINGLY, MOST OF THE ATHENS PRESS TODAY (SEPTEMBER 18) GAVE A FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD ACCOUNT OF THE ACTION TAKEN YESTERDAY BY THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC) IN FAVOR OF RELAXING THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. THE ARTICLES, DATELINED WASHINGTON, D.C., REPORTED THE COMMITTEE VOTE, QUOTED SEGMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER WARNING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF MAINTAINING THE EMBARGO, AND CARRIED SOME OF THE TESTIMONY BY UNDER SECRETARY SISCO BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

2. WHILE THE COMMITTEE ACTION WAS A FRONT PAGE ITEM IN MOST JOURNALS, THE TWO COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS TOTALLY IGNORED THE STORY. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS APPEARED ANYWHERE DURING THIS FIRST DAY. LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA ENTITLED ITS ACCOUNT WITH "A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE APPROVED AID TO BE GIVEN TURKEY." CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS ANNOUNCED "AID TO TURKEY PASSED OVER ONE OBSTACLE" WHILE RIGHT-WING ELEFTHEROS COSMOS STATED BLANDLY "RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY VOTED."

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3. ON THE OTHER HAND, AFTERNOON, LEFTIST (AND OPENLY
ANTI-AMERICAN)ELEFROTYPPIA EDITORIALIZED A BIT IN ITS
HEADLINE. REFERRING TO PLEDGES OF HELLENIC-FRENCH
FRIENDSHIP DURING THE CURRENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT GISCARD
D'ESTAING, IT HEADLINED "WHILE GISCARD SAID 'COUNT
ON OUR FRIENDSHIP'...AMERICAN PROVOCATION: THE SHIPMENT
OF ARMS TO TURKEY IS APPROVED." HOWEVER, THE ENSUING
STORY ITSELF REFLECTED ESSENTIALLY FACTUAL REPORTING OF
THE COMMITTEE ACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS07165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750324-0160
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750937/aaaabgoi.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE VOTE ON MILITARY AID TO TURKEY
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006